

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

12. (Twice Amended) An anti-microbial powder coating composition comprising one or more anti-microbial agents homogeneously dispersed within particles of a [resin based] polymer powder.

13. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 12, wherein the powder coating composition comprises 90 to 99.9% by weight of one or more thermosetting and/or thermoplastic compositions based on epoxy, polyester, [acrylate] acrylic, and/or polyurethane resins as the [resin based] polymer powder and 0.1 to 10% by weight of one or more anti-microbial agents.

14. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 12, wherein said one or [ore] more anti-microbial agents further comprise solid anti-microbial agents.

17. (Twice Amended) A method of applying an anti-microbial coating on an article, said method comprising contacting said article with an anti-microbial powder coating composition comprising particles under conditions sufficient to cause said anti-microbial powder coating composition to adhere to said article, the each of the particles of the composition comprising 90 to 99.9% by weight of one or more thermosetting and/or thermoplastic compositions based on epoxy, polyester, [acrylate] acrylic, and/or polyurethane resins as the [resin based] polymer powder and 0.1 to 10% by weight of one or more anti-microbial agents [homogenously] homogeneously dispersed therein.

18. (Twice Amended) A method for preparing an anti-microbial powder coating composition comprising particles, each said particles comprising a polymer powder and an

organic biocide, the method comprising the step of mixing an anti-microbial agent into precursors of a polymer powder to obtain a mixture, heating the mixture, preparing granules of the mixture and forming a powder from the granules.

23. (Twice amended) The composition of claim 22, wherein the 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol concentration is greater than 1 weight percent and less than about 20 weight percent.

26. (Twice Amended) The composition of claim 25, wherein the 3,5-dimethyltetrahydro-1,3,5-2H-thiazine-2-thione concentration is greater than 1 weight percent and less than about 20 weight percent.

28. (Amended) A method of applying a coating on an article to provide an anti-microbial coating thereon, the method comprising:

electrostatically spraying a coating composition on to said article; and

baking said electrostatically sprayed coating composition on to said article [at a temperature of 140°C to 210°C];

wherein the coating composition comprises particles of a thermoplastic polymer containing a biocide, and said biocide is substantially uniformly distributed throughout the coating composition at a concentration of 0.1 to 20% by weight of the coating composition.

29. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 18 comprising mixing the [polymer precursors] precursors of a polymer powder and the anti-microbial agent into a mixture, heating the mixture, extruding the mixture into sheet form, granulating the sheet to form granules, grinding the granules to a powder and sieving the powder to size.

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30. Cancelled.

31. Cancelled.

32. Cancelled.